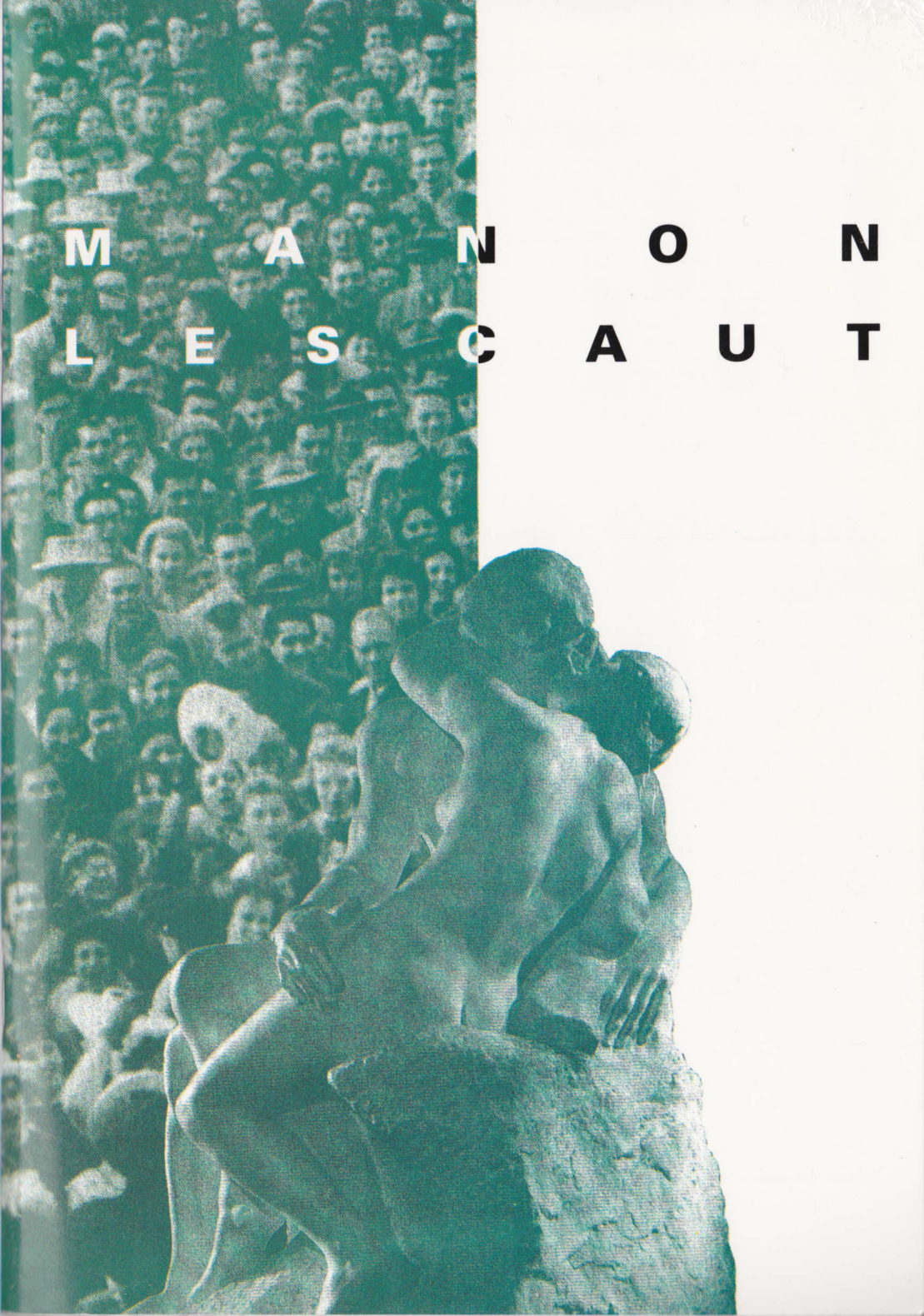


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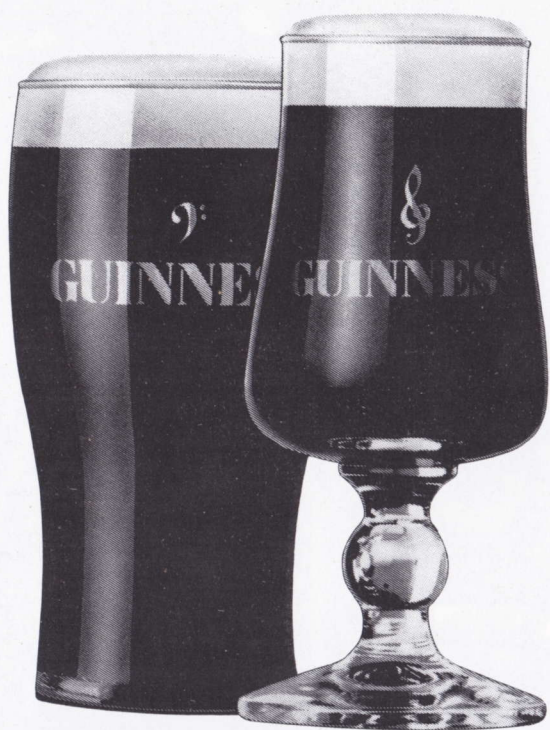
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Libretto Praga, Oliva, Ricordi and Illica

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National Symphony Orchestra
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There will be one interval after Act II



Poster and programme cover design by Ian MacDonald Armstrong



Giacomo Puccini (1858-1924).

CAST

<i>Edmondo</i>	Paul Harrhy
<i>Hotel Innkeeper</i>	Paul McNamara
<i>Chevalier des Grieux</i>	Stefano Algieri
<i>Lescaut</i>	Paul Parfitt
<i>Manon Lescaut</i>	Alison Pearce
<i>Geronte di Ravoir</i>	Tom Haenen
<i>Singer</i>	Frances McCafferty
<i>Dancing Master</i>	Robert Crowe
<i>Orderly</i>	James Nelson
<i>Sergeant</i>	Paul McNamara
<i>Captain</i>	Graham Webber

<i>Assistant Director</i>	Kevin Knight
<i>Assistant Designer</i>	Tim Sykes
<i>Repetiteur</i>	Timothy Lole
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Nóra Ní Cósgraigh
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Micil Ryan



L'Abbé Prévost (1697-1763).

SYNOPSIS

ACT I

Amiens, 1938, a summer evening. Students arrive for a night out. Led by Edmondo, they flirt with the girls coming home from work. Des Grieux tries to make his way upstairs to his digs, heckled by his fellow-students who accuse him of being in love. He replies that 'this tragedy, or rather comedy' has not happened to him yet, and asks the local girls which one of them he will fall in love with (*Tra voi belle . . .*).

A train brings well dressed visitors. One, a powerful official, is interested in a young woman travelling with her brother. The two men book into the hotel while she waits outside. Des Grieux asks her name, and she tells him that she is Manon Lescaut and that her brother calls her inside, but she agrees to meet des Grieux later, when it is dark.

Alone, des Grieux sings that he has never seen a woman like this one and that he loves her (*Donna non vidi mai . . .*). The other students, who have been watching tease him and he escapes to his room. They ask the local girls to bring them luck as they play cards. Meanwhile Lescaut, Manon's brother, is encouraging the official, Geronte di Ravoir, to pity his unfortunate sister who must take the veil. Geronte invites him to supper, then leaves. Lescaut, trying to win money from the students at cards, does not notice Geronte arraigning with the landlord for a fast car to take himself and Manon to Paris in an hour. Edmondo overhears and warns des Grieux.

When Manon comes to meet des Grieux, he tells her he loves her, and explains that she is in danger from Geronte. The students, alerted by Edmondo, are getting Lescaut drunk. Des Grieux persuades Manon to run away with him. They escape with Edmondo's assistance. When Geronte appears, ready to abduct Manon, Edmondo points out that she has already left with des Grieux.

Geronte rages at Lescaut, who replies that there is no need to pursue the couple. They will certainly go to Paris, because Manon likes the bright lights. Soon, tired of being penniless, she will welcome Geronte as a father. The students sing rudely about a drink that is suddenly removed from thirsty lips.

Pause during which the audience is asked to remain seated

ACT II

Paris during the occupation.

Geronte is more powerful than ever and Manon is his mistress. Lescaut pays a morning visit to his sister and congratulates her on having exchanged an impoverished life with des Grieux for her recent splendour. She confesses that she finds Geronte's luxury cold (*Il quelle trine morbide . . .*). Lescaut tells her that des Grieux, knowing he will need money to win Manon back, has become a gambler. Taught by Lescaut how to cheat, he is doing well. Manon longs to see him. A distinguished singer arrives, hired by Geronte to serenade Manon.

Lescaut leaves as Geronte comes in with a cameraman and technicians, ready to make a short film starring Manon (*L'ora, o Tirsi . . .*). A number of guests enjoy the spectacle. Geronte and his friends set off for a fashionable cafe where Manon is to join them. She is changing when des Grieux comes in. He abuses her and she asks his forgiveness, saying she loves him. He is unable to resist.

Geronte, returning unexpectedly, takes in the situation with surprising calm. When he leaves, Manon rejoices while des Grieux anxiously urges her to come away with him. The regret she expresses at leaving such wealth drives des Grieux to a fresh outburst of despair (*Ah, Manon, mi tradisce . . .*). As she swears to be different from now on, Lescaut arrives, out of breath. A friend at the barracks has told him that Geronte is

bringing soldiers to arrest Manon as a social deviant. Des Grieux curses while Manon tries to collect what treasures she can. Des Grieux is shocked again by her materialism. Lescaut beseeches the couple to hurry. It is too late; the house is surrounded. Geronte presides over Manon's arrest while Lescaut restrains des Grieux, reminding him that he needs to stay free so that he can rescue her.

INTERVAL

INTERMEZZO

France during the occupation.

Manon is committed to a secure hospital for women.

ACT III

Dawn breaks as Lescaut and des Grieux wait at the hospital to free Manon. Lescaut has bribed one of the guards and organized armed support. Des Grieux locates Manon, who is overwhelmed to find that he still loves her. An orderly passes, singing about a king who gave his beloved jewels and a husband, and won her heart. When he is gone, des Grieux explains to Manon how they are to escape. She is terrified but agrees.

A disturbance is heard and a shot is fired. In the confusion, Lescaut rushes in; his plan has failed, and des Grieux must leave. Des Grieux refuses. Soldiers and hospital staff are everywhere. Onlookers speculate about what has happened. The excitement is soon forgotten as the

soldiers and doctors proceed with the morning's planned shipment of women to an unknown destination. They have been told they are going to America. One by one they are called and processed. The watching crowd, which regards them as misfits and undersirables, comments unsympathetically on their appearance. Meanwhile Lescaut plays on the sympathy of a group of orderlies, expalining that des Grieux, hiding by Manon's bed, is her husband, and that she was taken away from him by a rich man, then discarded.

When it is time for Manon to go with the other women, Des Grieux tries to protect her then, realizing the situation is hopeless, begs to go with her (*Pazzo son . . .*). At the last moment, the officer in charge consents.

Pause during which the audience is asked to remain seated.

ACT IV

A ravaged landscape at the end of the way. Manon and des Grieux, broken in health, are trying to walk to a place of safety. Manon collapses in a fever. Des Grieux prays desperately. Manon asks Des Grieux to go on in search of shelter. As he leaves, she faints. Waking to find herself alone, she sings of her fear, her past, and her approaching death (*Sola, perduta, abbandonata . . .*). Des Grieux returns, having found nothing. He tries to reawaken her will to live, but she embraces him for the last time, dying on the words, 'My love will never die. . .'



NOTES

Italian boys of Puccini's generation all studied the classics, and his operas are a modern response to the tragedies of the Greeks. Death is reached through inexorable anguish. The process is severely traditional even if the circumstances are not. However, there are no hostile gods; nor are there tragic flaws in the Shakespearean sense. *Manon Lescaut*, Puccini's first really successful, characteristic opera, defines the new disaster area where he was to remain for most of his creative life. He chose the perfect heroine for the purpose, and was well aware of her significance. He wrote to his publisher that 'Manon is a heroine I believe in and therefore she cannot fail to win the hearts of the public'.

In the Abbé Prévost's novel, the unreliable Manon is seen always through the infatuated eyes of des Grieux, who tells the story in the first person. In Puccini's opera she sings for herself, passionately and confidently; but this does not make her character any more consistent than it is in the novel. What she sings carries us with her, even though we can see that it does not correspond very well with the way she behaves. The whole audience becomes des Grieux, excited by her ingenuous availability, baffled by her simultaneous refusal to keep faith. Des Grieux cannot control her. The experiences he has with her are so intense that they seem to have eternal significance for him, yet he can't make them last.

Their love is defined from the start as being unequal. Des Grieux is first attracted by her melancholy. When he tells her he loves her, in Act I, her reply is quite self-absorbed: 'I am just a poor girl, no light of beauty on my face; sadness rules my fate'. His declaration dissolves into an irresistible chain of shared sighs and tears. It is as if he has been waiting for this sadness all his life. Manon's underlying indifference is demonstrated not only by the fact that she leaves him

before Act II, but also by the facility with which she pours out affectionate words when he finds her again. Once glimpsed, this indifference remains constant in their relationship. The more she protests her love as the story unfolds, the greater the fear of separation experienced by des Grieux. First established psychologically, his Pavlovian dilemma next moves into the sphere of concrete events: Manon is shut away in prison; she is about to be transported out of his reach; and in Act IV, when her love seems unmistakable, she dies. She is not a tragic heroine in the traditional sense, because it is the suffering of des Grieux, not hers, that we hear most about. She is part of a tragic complex, a mutual slide into destruction; *Othello* has a similar pattern.

The kind of love that Puccini sets out to evoke recalls what Proust wrote about the changing face of Albertine. Each time Albertine's lover caught sight of her she looked different, and this difference was both a betrayal and a challenge to be overcome. Proust described the dream world of the individual constantly trying to assimilate and master the obstinate world outside, so that wishes could be fulfilled with blissful ease and the drudgery of consciousness could be laid aside. The end was always failure: love was an image of the whole of life, an individual's experiment with reality ending in death. Puccini made Proust's perennial death struggle into the tragic drive that powered his operas. The inherent inability of souls to recreate the world in their own image became his 20th-century version of the hatred of the gods.

In *Manon Lescaut*, as in *Butterfly* or *Tosca*, Puccini offers no way out; des Grieux is not redeemed by his experience but comes away with nothing. Perhaps it is this bleak Latin pessimism, as much as his nerve-wrenching, opportunistic theatricality, that has caused so many people to

dismiss Puccini's work as cheap. We are more comfortable with the Germanic pattern of love, death and spiritual transfiguration established by Goethe and carried on through the music of Schubert, Beethoven, Wagner and Mahler. We are reluctant to go into Puccini's emotional laboratory and we don't want him to be proved right; but the sensuous and technical beauty of his music, which glows with the hopeless courage of a living thing, draws us into the struggle every time. His purpose could not be more ancient or traditional: it is the purging of emotion through pity and terror.

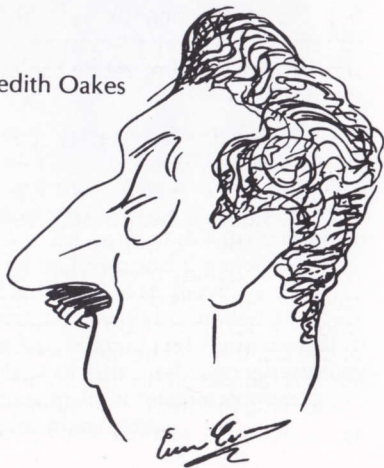
Musically, *Manon Lescaut* is the richest and most generous Puccini opera. Its story is disjunct but its emotional journey is direct. Any staging must try to attain, within the obstacle course of the plot, an emotional intensity worthy of the music and of the central idea. There is something expressionist about the elevation of personal, sexual disaster into a major artistic event. Puccini's attention does not stray into political or family matters; the stage is left bare for one or two exposed souls whose suffering distorts their outline and pushes them to vocal extremes. There are crowd scenes, but they are tableaux. The personal, Freudian atmosphere is accentuated by the fact that in Puccini it is women and victims who die, not kings and heroes.

Yet he returned repeatedly in his operas to a particular social flavour. Political despotism, imperialist takeover, the rich abusing their power over the poor: these were the situations that helped him to show individuals at their most vulnerable, with terror just around the corner. He presented power as inherently bad: a systematized, corrupt fossilization of dimly remembered spontaneity. There is no sharp contradiction between his lovers and his villains; they are all part of a pathetic continuum of unfulfilled need. The first generous flowering of response to the outside world spirals down into egomania; his characters are trapped inside themselves. Villainy occurs at the

far end of the scale, where need becomes violent and tyrannical, forgetting its origins in love and creating a social hothouse of rapid decay.

The elements of shock and fear that were part of Puccini's working method need constant reappraisal in performance; they wear out with familiarity. The world of the Abbé Prévost — France around 1720 — was a harsh, unregulated, egocentric one where the nobility had enormous advantages; this was probably one of the reasons why Puccini found the story attractive in the first place. He updated it to the second half of the eighteenth century, perhaps hoping to bring it closer to home without sacrificing the ambience of social inequality that enabled Geronte to have Manon arrested as a prostitute. Tonight's production, set in France before, during and after World War II, finds another period that is viable in political, functional and emotional terms while being, for us, much closer to home again. As des Grieux tries, with increasing desperation to make his relationship with Manon conform with his inner self so the world around him, corrupted by egomania at every level refuses to remain safe. In Act I a source of delight and nourishment, by Act IV it is devastated and can offer him no shelter. The work remains predominantly his story: Manon and Geronte, united by their fetishistic materialism, are the Janus-like faces of the reality that beckons and punishes him.

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THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Puccini's first opera, *Le Villi*, was composed for the 1884 Sonzogno operatic competition, but did not win, perhaps because the score was so untidy that it discouraged the judges. However, the work attracted the support of Arrigo Boito (composer of *Mefistofele*) and was eventually performed with success. Puccini, confirmed in his reluctance to follow five former generations of Puccinis as organist and choirmaster in Lucca, was commissioned to write a second opera by Ricordi, the publisher dominating the Italian market. Puccini's mother died in the same year. Shortly afterwards he created a scandal by setting up house with a married woman, thus losing his family's financial backing and virtually exiling himself from his home town. Living on a small allowance from Ricordi, he worked for five years on *Edgar*, a highly coloured historical fantasy based on a play by Musset. *Edgar* failed when at last it reached the stage.

The 31-year-old Puccini was now in difficulty, with a child and stepchild to support, and Ricordi's shareholders pressing for his stipend to be withdrawn. Giulio Ricordi, head of the firm defended him, offering to pay the shareholders out of his own pocket if Puccini's next opera did not succeed. He must have been remarkably clear-sighted. Around this time he wrote to Puccini, who was living in Milan in lodgings that grew progressively cheaper: 'We will not fail. Stop worrying, get to work, look for a good subject and a good poet'.

Manon Lescaut had attracted Puccini's attention in 1884, when Massenet's opera *Manon* was an international hit. It seems likely that he looked at a vocal score at this time, though some writers dispute it. In 1889 he read the novel and decided to set it, though he toyed with other subjects suggested by Ricordi, rejecting one of them in the revealing words: 'How can one compose something that one does not feel *entirely*?' He believed

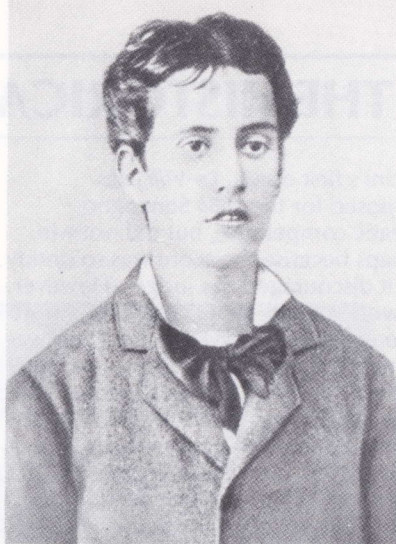
strongly in the character of the heroine: perhaps she reminded him of his mistress Elvira, or perhaps of himself. There is a moment in Act II where Manon says, 'Madrigals, dancing and, well, music, are fine things; only they bore me'. No such words appear in the novel by the Abbé Prévost. Is this the voice of Elvira, who liked shops better than operas and who was, in the words of her friend Gilda Dalla Rizza, 'always around and always absent'. Or is it the voice of Puccini himself, a reluctant, depressed composer who preferred real life in the form of drinking, chasing women and shooting wildfowl?

Ricordi first engaged the composer/writer Ruggiero Leoncavallo as librettist, but Puccini did not like the treatment he produced. Previously easygoing about the texts he worked on, he was now beginning to assert himself in this respect like Mozart or Verdi. His scoring was to prove more interventionist too: *Manon Lescaut* is the first of his works to carry metronome markings and to borrow from Verdi the insistent dynamic instruction *pppp* (*pianissississimo*: very very very quiet). He approached the next librettist himself: it was the playwright Marco Praga, who had never written a libretto before and who invited the poet Domenico Oliva to help with the versification. Oliva was to be responsible, at Puccini's prompting, for the remarkable and original roll call of the women prisoners in Act III.

Praga and Oliva had finished work by summer 1890, and Puccini rented a chalet near the Swiss border and began to write. He remained there for the rest of the year, then for most of 1891 lived alone in Lucca while Elvira and the children stayed in Florence to avoid confrontations with his family. In September, Puccini and Elvira moved to the village of Torre del Lago where they were to remain in relative domestic peace for many years.

The changes that he kept requesting for the text offended first Praga, then Oliva. Ricordi, participating closely in the work, was equally demanding, and eventually asked the playwright Giuseppe Giacosa for his advice, hoping he would collaborate. Giacosa sidestepped this but brought in another playwright, Luigi Illica, who after some complications took charge of the libretto. In the end, Giacosa historical joined in as well, thus completing the team that was to produce *La Bohème*, *Tosca* and *Madama Butterfly*. The working method they evolved is beautifully recalled by Illica in the obituary notice he wrote for Giacosa in 1906: 'Those sessions of ours! ... Real battles in which there and then entire acts were torn to pieces, scene after scene sacrificed, ideas abjured which only a moment ago had seemed bright and beautiful; thus was destroyed in a minute the work of long and painful months. Giacosa, Puccini, Giulio Ricordi and I — we were a quartet because Giulio Ricordi, who was presumed to preside, would always leave his presidential chair and descend into our semicircle which was extremely narrow (two metres in circumference and rendered more narrow still and more close and uncomfortable by the mighty person of Giacosa), to become one of the most obstinate and most vigorous belligerents...Giacosa was for us the equilibrium, in dark moments he was the sun, on stormy days the rainbow...In that uproar of voices expressing different views and conceptions, Giacosa's voice was the delightful, persuasive song of the nightingale...And Puccini? After each session he had to run to the manicurist to have his finger-nails attended to: he had bitten them off, down to the bone!'

Puccini became gradually more concerned with distinguishing his *Manon* from Massenet's. In one letter an Act II is mentioned, showing Manon and des Grieux living happily together before the intervention of Geronte: this was scrapped in 1891 because of its Massenet echoes, leaving the hiatus whereby Manon runs off with des Grieux at the



Puccini in boyhood.

end of Act I only to appear in Geronte's apartments at the opening of Act II.

Ricordi's role went far beyond what would normally be expected of a publisher. Himself a minor poet and composer, he had been the confidant of Verdi and now transferred his experience to working with Puccini, who once described him as 'the only person who inspires me with trust, and to whom I can confide all that is going through my mind'. Throughout the long process of reworking *Manon Lescaut*, he bombarded the composer with suggestions, some shrewd, some irritating. Here is a typical piece of advice about Act III: 'How can one permit a young man to kiss a condemned woman, and in front of the commander, the soldiers, and the entire populace? This offends common sense. How about this: Manon marches slowly with the others while des Grieux begs her: "I have obtained permission"; then, half crying, half speaking:" Manon, Manon, I follow you"! 'Manon turns, she falls to her knees, she lifts her arms to heaven in a gesture of joy and gratitude. Des Grieux runs towards Manon and the curtain falls. It's not so wonderful. No! But it is more believable. Consider it...



Manon Lescaut was finished in 1892, and was seen for the first time in Turin in February 1893, in a performance carefully organized and promoted by Ricordi. Milan, which Puccini would have preferred, was avoided because *Edgar* had failed there. The first *Manon* had to be a Turin soprano, Cesira Ferrani. Puccini worried that the principals' voices would not be heard above the orchestra, but he must have been pleased with her, because she became the first Mimi in *La Bohème*. His writing demanded a kind of voice not widely available, then or now: big enough to ride an almost Wagnerian orchestra yet supple, graceful and expressive, with pinpoint accuracy to

deal with chromatic passages and rhythmically surprising cues.

There were thirty curtain calls at the first night. The reviews were enthusiastic, and within the year *Manon Lescaut* was being performed throughout Italy and abroad. It reached London in 1894, prompting the young George Bernard Shaw, music critic on *The World*, to observe that 'Puccini looks to me more like the heir of Verdi than any of his rivals'. Ricordi had reason to agree. *Manon Lescaut* was the first of a series of spectacular returns on his investment.

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Costume Designs by Patricia Boulter



ROSINA ACT I.



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Dorothy Thomson
Mary Troy
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Tom Carney
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Martina Austin
Dearbhla Walsh
Derval Sheridan
Anita Power
Margaret Smith
Tara Flynn
Susan Scott
Deborah Davies
Oonagh Monaghan
Sharon Coventry
Patricia Kavenagh
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Keith Pinkerton
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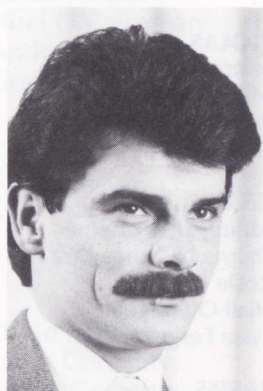
KENNETH RICHARDSON – Artistic Director

Born in Stirling; studied St. Andrews University. Following a management training course in industry he worked in the Planning Department of Scottish Opera before his appointment as Opera Company Manager at the Royal Opera House in 1987. Has been closely involved in a number of initiatives including the Royal Opera's first open air concert in Great Britain and the setting up of The Garden Venture which promotes the writing of new operas by young composers. In June 1990 he was appointed General Manager of the Royal Opera where his work includes the coordination of the company's television and recording projects, its overseas touring and other activities which broaden the base of its activities. His initiative of the highly successful *West Side Story* singalong at the 1990 RTE Proms this summer was his debut as DGOS Artistic Director. This is his second DGOS season.



DAVID COLLOPY – Administrator

Born in Wexford where he studied Accountancy before joining Wexford Festival Opera in 1980 as Administrator, a position he held for five years. After Wexford, he joined a London based design consultancy firm as Financial Controller. In 1985 he became the first Administrator and Company Secretary with the new Dublin Grand Opera Society Company. In this capacity, he has administered twenty-seven of the Society's opera productions. In the latter part of 1988 he was seconded on temporary assignment to RTE as Concerts Manager.



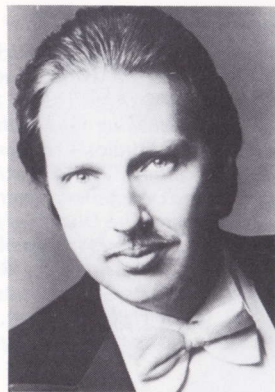
JONATHAN WEBB – Head of Music

British conductor recently appointed Head of Music of Dublin Grand Opera where he has been Chorus Master since September 1988 and assistant conductor to Janos Furst (*Don Giovanni*) and Roderick Brydon (*Norma*). Graduated from the University of Manchester in 1985 and conducted Alan Ridout's *Angelo* for Kent Opera and the West End production of *West Side Story* in that same year. Recent engagements include Sondheim's *Company* at RADA in London and *Soldier's Tale*, *The Rape of Lucretia* and *Falstaff* for Opera Theatre Company in Ireland. He was Chorus Master for the Wexford Festival Opera in 1989 and 1990. Earlier this year he recorded an orchestral concert with RTECO for RTE radio. Also in 1991 he will conduct Balfe's *The Rose of Castile* for WFO, a gala concert to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the DGOS and *Le nozze de Figaro* in the winter season.



STEFANO ALGIERI – des Grieux

Born in Hoboken, New Jersey, Stefano Algieri is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music in New York. Since his debut as Radames 6 years ago in Syracuse, New York, the young tenor has gone on to sing the roles of *Don Carlo*, *Manrico*, *Riccardo*, *Radames*, *Don Alvaro*, *Cavaradossi*, *Dick Johnson*, *Boris* in New York, Paris, Berlin, Toronto, Los Angeles, Lisbon and in November 1992 will make his Vienna Staatsoper debut. Mr Algieri was heard for the first time in Dublin as Don José in the DGOS production of *Carmen* in 1989.



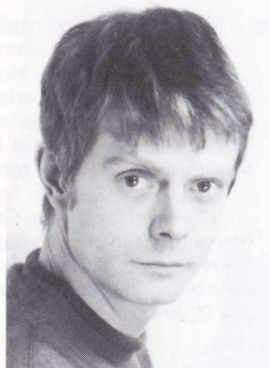
ROBERT CROWE – Dancing Master

Born in Scotland, educated in the UK and Southern Africa, he graduated BSc Hons in 1970. Although he read engineering at University in the Transvaal he returned to study music at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama London. In 1979 he joined D'Oyly Carte Opera and made his professional debut at Sadler's Wells touring Australia and New Zealand with the company. In 1981 he joined Scottish Opera for five years, before returning to NAPAC Opera in Durban South Africa. Roles include Narraboth, Idomeneo, Turiddu, Andrea Chénier, Arnaldo in *William Tell* and many concert performances at the Royal Festival Hall the Barbican and other major venues throughout the UK. Robert studies with Neilson Taylor and Edwardo Asquez.



STEPHEN DALDRY – Director

Artistic Director of London's Gate Theatre.



RICK FISHER – Lighting Designer

Originally from the US, Rick has worked in British Theatre for 14 years. Recent work includes *Some Americans Abroad* (Lincoln Centre NYC and RSC); *A Walk In The Woods* (Comedy); *The Marshalling Yard*, *Fatherland* (Bush Theatre); *Mrs Vershinin* (Riverside Studios/Old Transport Museum, Glasgow/Hamburg); *Serious Money* (Royal Court/Wyndhams/Broadway); *The Bacchae* (Shared Experience); *Peer Gynt* (National Theatre); *Mayra* (Old Vic); *Sara*, *The Doctor of Honour* and *Hamlet* (Cheek By Jowl); *Hidden Laughter* (Vauderville); *Temptation, Restoration and Two Shakespearean Actors* (RCS); *Death and The King's Horseman* (Royal Exchange, Manchester); *Betrayal* (Almeida); *Twelfth Night* (Peter Hall Company). Opera includes *Peter Grimes* (Opera North), *A Midsummer's Night's Dream* (Opera London) and three seasons for Musica Nel Chiostro Batignano, Italy.



MARCO GUIDARINI – Conductor

Born in Genoa; studied conducting with Mario Gusella, obtaining the best diploma at the International Advanced Music Courses of the Academy of Pescara. After his first symphonic concerts in Italy, he was invited by John Eliot Gardiner to become his assistant at the

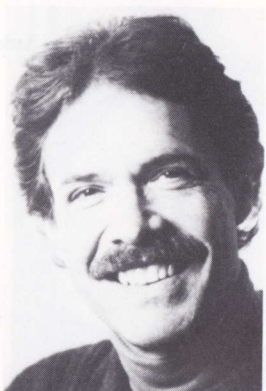
Opéra de Lyon, where he made his operatic debut in 1986 conducting Verdi's *Falstaff*. With the same company he conducted Rossini's *Comte Ory* (performances in Lyon, Annecy, St. Etienne).

Made his debut at the Wexford Festival in 1988 conducting Mercadante's *Elisa e Claudio*, which he also conducted at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London and returned to Wexford to conduct Mozart's *Mitridate*, *Re di Ponto* in 1989. In 1989/90 he conducted *Il barbiere de Siviglia* for Opera North, *Madama Butterfly* in Dublin and the Rossini *Petite Messe Solonelle* at the Leeds Festival. In 1990/91, he was asked at short notice to open the season for the English National Opera with *Tosca* which he conducted for the first time. There followed concerts with the RAI in Rome and *Le Nozze di Figaro* for the Welsh National Opera. In 1991 he conducts *La Bohème* for Scottish Opera.



TOM HAENEN – Geronte

Born in Amsterdam and studied at the Conservatoire there. He was a prize winner in the international competitions at s'Hertogenbosch in Holland and Rio de Janeiro. He made his debut with the Netherlands Opera as Don Alfonso in *Così Fan Tutte*. Subsequent roles included the General in Prokofiev's *The Gambler*, Arkel in *Pelléas et Mélisande* and Ferrando in *Il trovatore*. Roles he has sung more recently include Osmin in *Die Entführung aus dem Serail* for Opera North, Leporello in *Don Giovanni* for Dublin Grand Opera, Sparafucile in *Rigoletto* in Barcelona and Don Cassandra in Mozart's *La finta semplice*. The current season has seen him at the Netherlands Opera as Tom in *Ballo in maschera*, a role he will also sing for the Dutch Company Opera Forum. He has appeared at the Spoleto, Israel and Las Palmas Festivals.



PAUL HARRHY – Edmondo

Born in South Wales, studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama where he won the BP Opera and Boise Foundation Scholarships. Made his professional debut with Opera 80 as Alfredo, returning the following season to sing Tom Rakewell. With English National Opera has performed as The High Priest in Philip Glass' *Akhnaten*, Valzacchi (*Der Rosenkavalier*) and Janek (*The Makropoulos Case*); for Scottish Opera Pedrillo, Mime, The Novice and Rememdado; for Opera North Tom Rakewell and Truffaldino. In 1988 made his debut with the Almeida Festival in Wolpe's *Anna Blume* and *Street Music* and sang Stump in the world premiere of John Casken's *Golem*. In 1989 he made his debut with Wexford Festival Opera singing Bracy in Marschner's *Der Templer und die Jüdin* and Marzio (*Mitridate*). In 1990 he sang his first Mime with the CBTO. Plans include Pedrillo with Opera 80 and Truffaldino in Tel Aviv. This is his DGOS debut.



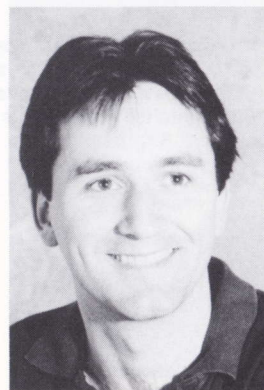
KEVIN KNIGHT – Assistant Director

Trained as a designer at the Central School of Art and Design. Design credits include West End productions of *Siegfried Sassoon* with Peter Barkworth; *A Very Private Diary* with Victor Spinetti; *The Eight O'Clock Muse* with Edward Petherbridge and Arnozo Weskers *The Kitchen*. His rep productions include *Godspell*, *Noises Off*, *Daisy Pulls It Off* and *Brighton Beach Memories*. Assistant Designer on Peter Hall's *Merchant of Venice* and the West End production of *The Woman in Black*. As an Assistant Director at the Gate Theatre, London, productions include *Jerker*, *Democracy* and *Dear Elena Sergeevna* also assistant on *The Red Circle*, *The Little Chair*, *Putting a Bit of Stick About* and *Facing The Dangers*. He directed a workshop production of *Pin Money Opera* for Raines Plough in London.



TIMOTHY LOLE – Repetiteur

Born in Chatfort St. Peter; studied at Trinity College, Cambridge where he was Organ Scholar, the Royal College of Music and the National Opera Studio. He has worked as chorus master for the Valle D'Itria Festival in Martina Franca, for the Rorne Radio Chamber Choir and in Sicily for the Orchestra Sinfonica de Sicilia. He is a regular guest member of the music staff at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and during the last two seasons has worked on several productions as repetiteur, prompter and off-stage conductor. In January he conducted the last cycle of Wagner's *Ring Saga* for City of Birmingham Touring Opera. In May he will be conducting a new opera for The Garden Venture and in August he joins Scottish Opera as a staff conductor.



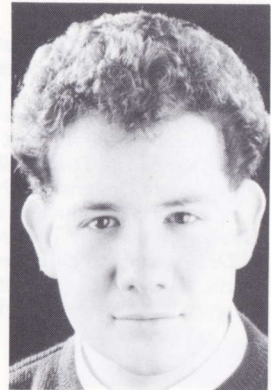
FRANCES McCAFFERTY – Singer

Acclaimed as one of Scotland's finest singers, her career has been established in oratorio. She is however no stranger to the operatic stage: her recent performance as Sesto in Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* ".....dominated the performance." Her recording of Sullivan's *Ivanhoe* received a Gramophone Society Award in the Opera section. The versatility of her repertoire has been demonstrated by her performances as Anita in *West Side Story* which she gave throughout Scotland with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, and at the RTE Proms in Dublin last year. Following her debut at the Edinburgh International Festival with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra she was invited to return last year to sing in a performance of Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, and will again return this year to sing the same work. She returns to Dublin in October for a DGOS concert.



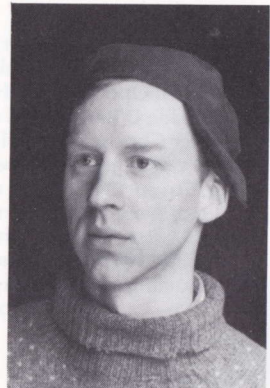
PAUL McNAMARA – Sergeant/Innkeeper

From Limerick, he is an honours graduate in music at UCC. He has studied singing with Maeve Coughlan, Paul Deegan and Laura Sarti. Shortly after he moved to Dublin in 1988 he took up his first professional operatic role; the benighted swain Nanni of Haydn's *L'Infedelta Delusa* in the Opera Theatre Company tour, abbey revival and subsequent television production for RTE. Since then he has also worked with the Wexford Festival Opera and DGOS. Recent performances include Handel's *Messiah*; Haydn's *Creation* and a recital of lieder by Mendelssohn and Loewe for RTE radio. Future engagements include Guglielmo *Così fan Tutte* for Young Dublin Opera; Haydn's *Nelson Mass* at the RHK and recitals in Cork, Dublin and Belfast with programmes including Irish premiers of works by Mawby and Weir. In September he moves to London to take up a scholarship at the Opera School of the Royal College of Music.



IAN MacNEIL – Designer

Ian MacNeil trained at Croydon School of Art. He has designed in London, New York and Edinburgh and numerous Regional Theatres in England. Most recent work includes *La Clemenza di Tito* (Guildhall School) and *Purgatory* and *Pioneers in Ingolstadt* at the Gate Theatre, London.



JAMES NELSON – Lamplighter

From Sligo, he is a BA, BMus (Hons) graduate from UCD. He left his post in the RTE Chamber Choir in 1989 to go to London to study with David Harper. He was part of the Mayer-Lismann opera workshop at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, where he studied and performed many of the great tenor roles. He now tours with the London based group 'Opera Brava'. Outside of this commitment, he has an extremely busy schedule of oratorio and concert work throughout England and Ireland. Recent operatic roles include Pedrillo (*Seraglio*), Goro (*Butterfly*), Basilio and Curzio (*Figaro*), Remus (*Treemonisha*), Albert (*Albert Herring*), Beepe (*Rita*), Sio El Kar (*Desert Song*) and others. Forthcoming engagements include *Goro* and *Albert* again, Julian in Charpentier's *Louise* and extensive oratorio and concert work.

**PAUL PARFITT – Lescaut**

Born in Lancashire; studied at Durham University and Guildhall School of Music. Upon leaving the Guildhall he joined the Glyndebourne Chorus. Roles include Alfonso and Don Pasquale with Pavilion Opera; Abott *Curlew River* at the Camden Festival, Haly *Italian Girl in Algiers* and Silvano *Masked Ball* for Opera 80.

He sang in four productions for New Sadler's Wells Opera. For ONI he sang *Masetto* and for Opera Theatre Company Junius in *The Rape of Lucretia* and most recently Ford in *Falstaff*. Sang Bill Bobstay *HMS Pinafore*, Samuel *Pirates of Penzance* and Pish Tush *Mikado* for D'Oyly Carte in Britain and California.

**ALISON PEARCE – Manon Lescaut**

One of the United Kingdom's most distinguished and sought-after soprano soloists in oratorio, opera and recital work. She sings with many choral societies and music clubs across the United Kingdom, and also enjoys a highly successful international career. She appears frequently with Britain's leading orchestras, as well as being heard regularly in oratorio and lieder recitals on BBC Radio

3. She has been soloist in world premiers by contemporary composers Alun Hoddinott and Dominic Muldowney, and in John McCabe's *Music Empire*, which was first performed by the Halle Orchestra and televised by Granada. Alison has also starred in many of the major operatic prima donna roles including those in

La Traviata, *I Lombardi*, *Nabucco*, *L'elisir d'amore*, *Lucia di Lammermoor* and *Les pêcheurs de perles*. Plans include *Four Last Songs* in London, Mozart *Requiem* in the Netherlands and Bach *Christmas Oratoria* in Spain. This is her DGOS debut.



TIM SYKES – Assistant Designer

Trained at Croydon School of Art. He has designed *Picnic* for the Gate Theatre, Notting Hill and *Cabaret* for the Swan Youth Theatre. He has also worked as an assistant in *Everyman* in Cheltenham, the London Festival and The Gate.

**SEAN WALSH – Movement Director**

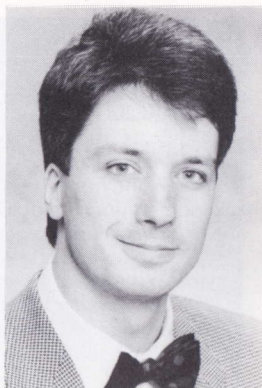
Trained at London School of Contemporary Dance — invited to study on fourth year intensive course and member of Performance Group. Invited to attend the International Summer School for

Choreography and Composers under the direction of Christopher Bruce. Artistic Director of Extemporany Dance Theatre. His works include *The Rise and Fall of Mahagonny* at Maggio Musicale in Florence; *A Flaming Desire* for Extemporany Dance based on the Faust legend; *Un re in ascolto* at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden and Bastille Opera, Paris; *Godspell* for Mercury Theatre Colchester; *Eugene Onegin* at English National Opera; *Iolanthe* for Scottish Opera and *West Side Story* at Salt's Mill Saltaire Bradford. This is his DGOS debut.

**GRAHAM WEBBER – Captain**

Fourth season with the DGOS. Trained with Patrick McGuigan at the Royal Northern College of Music and Jeff Neilson Taylor at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama Opera School.

Recently appeared as the Count in *The Marriage of Figaro* for British Youth Opera. Has entertained on the QE2 for their opera tour.



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J O'Farrell
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DGOS PRODUCTIONS 1941-1991

Dates indicate the first and most recent DGOS productions

Salvatore Allegra Ave Maria 1959 Medico Suo Malgrado 1962	Charles F Gounod Faust 1941, 1980 Roméo et Juliette 1945	Camille Saint-Saëns Samson and Delilah 1942, 1979
Michael W Balfe The Bohemian Girl 1943	George F Handel Messiah 1942	Bedřich Smetana The Bartered Bride 1953, 1976
Ludwig van Beethoven Fidelio 1954, 1980	Engelbert Humperdinck Hansel and Gretel 1942, 1982	Johann Strauss Die Fledermaus 1962, 1984 Der Zigeunerbaron 1964
Vincenzo Bellini La sonnambula 1960, 1963 Norma 1955, 1989 I Puritani 1975	Leoš Janáček Jenufa 1973	Richard Strauss Der Rosenkavalier 1964, 1984
Benjamin Britten Peter Grimes 1990	Pietro Mascagni L'amico Fritz 1952 Cavalleria rusticana 1941, 1973	Ambroise Thomas Mignon 1966, 1975
Georges Bizet Carmen 1941, 1989 Les pêcheurs de perles 1964, 1987	Jules Massenet Manon 1952, 1980 Werther 1967, 1977	Peter I Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin 1969, 1985 The Queen of Spades 1972
Gustave Charpentier Louise 1979	Wolfgang Amadè Mozart Così fan tutte 1950, 1984 Don Giovanni 1943, 1990 Idomeneo 1956 Il Seraglio 1949, 1964 Le nozze di Figaro 1942, 1973 The Magic Flute 1990	Giuseppe Verdi Aida 1942, 1984 Un ballo in maschera 1949, 1981 Don Carlo 1950, 1985 Ernani 1965, 1976 Falstaff 1960, 1977 La forza del destino 1951, 1973 Macbeth 1963, 1985 Nabucco 1962, 1986 Otello 1946, 1981 Rigoletto 1941, 1987 Simon Boccanegra 1956, 1974 La traviata 1941, 1989 Il trovatore 1941, 1988
Francesco Cilea Adriana Lecouvreur 1967, 1980	Jacques Offenbach Tales of Hoffmann 1944, 1979	Gerard Victory Music Hath Mischief 1968
Domenico Cimarosa Il matrimonio segreto 1961	Amilcare Ponchielli La Gioconda 1944, 1984	Richard Wagner The Flying Dutchman 1946, 1964 Lohengrin 1971, 1983 Tannhäuser 1943, 1977 Tristan und Isolde 1953, 1964 Die Walküre 1956
Claude Debussy Pelléas et Mélisande 1948	Giacomo Puccini La Bohème 1941, 1987 Gianni Schicchi 1962 Madama Butterfly 1942, 1990 Manon Lescaut 1958, 1991 Suor Angelica 1962 Tosca 1941, 1990 Turandot 1957, 1986	Ermanno Wolf-Ferrari Il segreto di Susanna 1956
Gaetano Donizetti Don Pasquale 1952, 1987 L'elisir d'amore 1958, 1987 La favorita 1942, 1982 La figlia del reggimento 1978 Lucia di Lammermoor 1955, 1984	Licinio Refice Cecilia 1954	
Friedrich von Flotow Martha 1982	Gioachino Rossini Il barbiere di Siviglia 1942, 1991 La Cenerentola 1972, 1979 L'Italiana in Algeri 1978	
Umberto Giordano Andrea Chénier 1957, 1983 Fedora 1959		
Christoph W Gluck Orfeo ed Euridice 1960, 1986		

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INFORMATION AND SERVICES

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KIOSK: The Gaiety Kiosk is situated in the foyer and is open before the performance and during the interval. The Kiosk stocks minerals and confectionery.

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At the end of the performance the Bars on the Dress Circle and Parterre levels will remain open. The Gaiety Bars offer an attractive setting for conferences, press receptions, Fashion shows and meetings. The Management reserves the right to refuse admission and to make any alteration in the cast or programme which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable cause.

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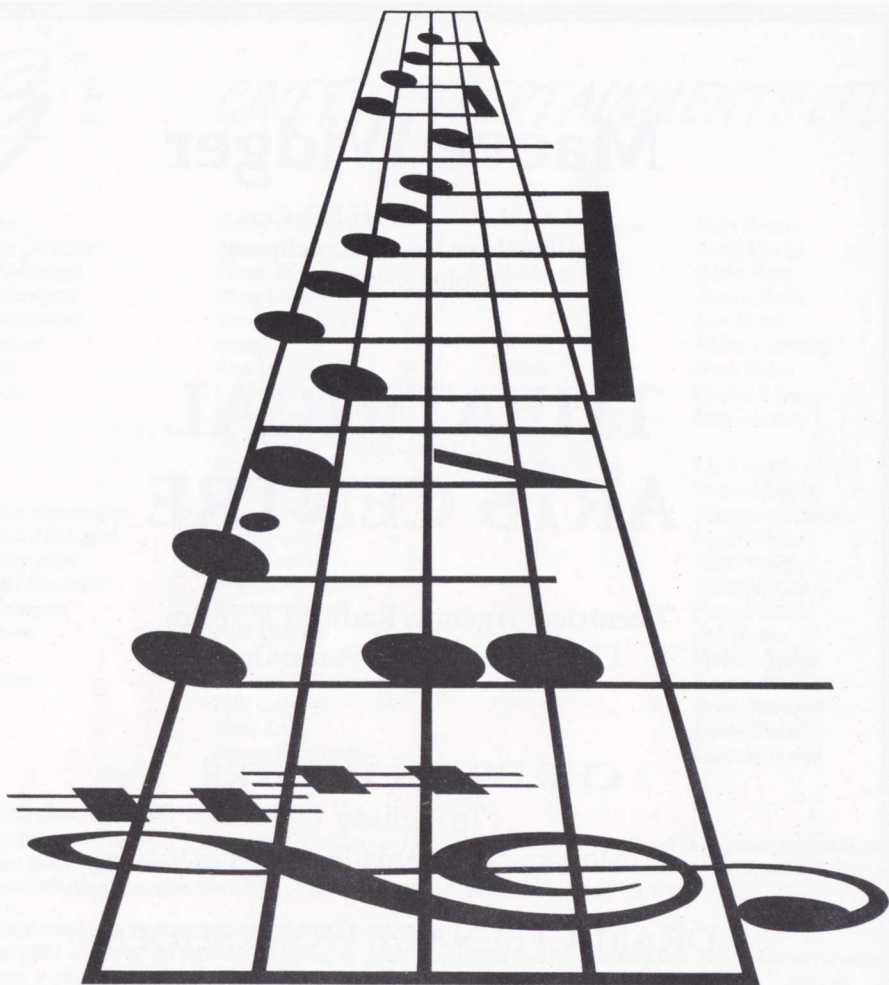
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